

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/334,208

Examiner

Timothy P. Solak

Applicant(s)

DAVIS, JEFFREY

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the decision from the Board of Appeals.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-5, 7 and 10-13.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No. 2.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>17</u> |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ray Wilson on 12/05/2002.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 6 and 8-9 have been canceled.

In Claim 2, line 1, "Claim 1" has been deleted and --Claim 3-- substituted therefore.

In Claim 2, line 2, "comprising" has been deleted and --consisting of-- substituted therefore.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. A method for reducing the pumping duty cycle of a pump assembly associated with a pumping gas well comprising the steps of:
continuously running an engine;
connecting the engine with a pump assembly through a clutch
assembly having a pneumatically inflatable bladder for connecting a hub

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B.

B1
of the clutch with a clutch plate to transmit rotary motion from the engine to the pump assembly;

determining a selected event to actuate the clutch to connect the engine with the pump assembly; and

providing a pressurized gas on the occurrence of the selected event to inflate the bladder to connect the pump assembly with the engine to remove liquid from the gas well to maintain an inflow of hydrocarbons from a producing formation;

[A method according to Claim 1,] where the pressurized gas is supplied from natural gas exiting the gas well.

In Claim 4, line 2, "comprising" has been deleted and --consisting of-- substituted therefore.

In Claim 5, line 1, "Claim 1" has been deleted and --Claim 3-- substituted therefore.

In Claim 7, line 1, "Claim 1" has been deleted and --Claim 3-- substituted therefore.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

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10. A pumping assembly for maintaining hydrocarbon production from a gas well, comprising:

a pumping assembly for pumping liquid from the gas well;

an engine for driving the pumping assembly;

a pneumatic clutch assembly having a pneumatically inflatable bladder for connecting a hub of the clutch with a clutch plate to transmit rotary motion from the engine to the pump assembly; and

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B2 a control unit for inflating the bladder when needed to pump liquid from the gas well to maintain hydrocarbon production from the well while enabling the engine to run continuously;

[A pumping assembly according to Claim 9,] wherein the control unit connects gas from the well to the pneumatic clutch for inflating the bladder.

In Claim 12, line 1, "Claim 9" has been deleted and --Claim 10-- substituted therefore.

Comments

The claims have been renumbered as follows for allowance. The following table contains the original claim number with the new corresponding claim number.

OLD	NEW
1	canceled
2	6
3	5
4	7
5	8

OLD	NEW
6	canceled
7	9
8	canceled
9	canceled
10	1

OLD	NEW
11	2
12	3
13	4
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy P. Solak whose telephone number is 703-308-6197. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am to 6pm.

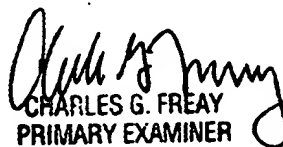
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy S. Thorpe can be reached on 703-308-0102. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.


CHARLES G. FREAY
PRIMARY EXAMINER


tps

December 5, 2002

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